



## CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH SUBURBAN AGRICULTURE - BEEKEEPING

Name of Property Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address \_\_\_\_\_

Aud. Bk. \_\_\_\_\_ Pg. \_\_\_\_\_ Par. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Zone District \_\_\_\_\_

### **3-10 SUBURBAN AGRICULTURE - BEEKEEPING.**

A building or premises shall be used only in accordance with the following requirements if listed as “permitted” in Table 3-2:

#### **3-10.1 Beekeeping Standards.**

- a. No person shall engage in apiculture without a Zoning Certificate that specifically identifies apiculture.
- b. In no case shall any product produced or made as a result of apiculture activity be offered for sale on any property zoned for residential use.
- c. Notwithstanding compliance with the various requirements of this section, it shall be prohibited for any beekeepers to keep any colony or colonies in such a manner or of such disposition as to cause any unhealthy condition, interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of human or animal life of others or interfere with the normal use and enjoyment of any public property or property of others.
- d. Allowed densities. It shall be unlawful to keep more than the following number of colonies on any tract of land, based upon the size or configuration of the tract on which the apiary is situated:
  1. One acre or less – two (2) colonies.
  2. More than one acre – four (4) colonies.
- e. Location and Setbacks. Any structure used for apiculture shall be accessory to an existing principal structure and shall comply with the following yard and setback requirements:
  1. Be located in the rear yard.
  2. Be located at least ten (10) feet from any property line.
- f. Hive Registration. All honey bee colonies shall be registered with the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Operators granted a Zoning Certificate to operate an apiary must maintain a valid annual apiary registration.
- g. Hive Type. All honey bee colonies shall be kept in Langstroth-type hives with removable frames, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.



- h. Fencing of Flyways. In each instance in which any colony is situated within 25 feet of a property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six (6) feet above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary. Any fence shall extend ten (10) feet beyond the colony in each direction and shall comply with Section 10-7.2.
- i. Water. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the bees at all times during the year so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools, pet watering bowls, bird baths, or other water sources where they may cause human or domestic pet contact.
- j. Queens. Beekeepers are strongly encouraged to maintain all colonies with marked queens. In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusual aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition toward swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to promptly re-queen the colony with another marked queen. Queens shall be selected from European stock bred for gentleness and non-swarming characteristics.
- k. Operation. It shall be presumed that the beekeeper is the person or persons who own or otherwise have the present right of possession and control of the tract upon which a colony or colonies are situated. The presumption may be changed by a written agreement authorizing another person to maintain the colony or colonies upon the tract setting forth the name, address, and telephone number of the other person who is acting as the beekeeper.
- l. Zoning Certificate Required. Applicants seeking to engage in apiculture must provide the following:
1. The Zoning Certificate Application Form.
  2. A Site Plan showing existing conditions and the location, dimensions, setbacks and colony/hive type for the proposed colony or colonies, any fencing or flyways if required, and the location of nearby water.
  3. A copy of a current, valid apiary registration from the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
  4. A copy of a signed, written agreement under Section 3-10.1(k), if applicable.
  5. Any other relevant information related to the operation of the apiary, if requested by the Administrative Officer.

### **Hamilton County**

The owner of this building and undersigned, do hereby covenant and agree to comply with all laws of the State of Ohio and the Zoning resolution of the County of Hamilton pertaining to building or buildings, and to operate the proposed business in accordance with plans, standards and or specifications submitted herein, and certify that the information and statements given on this application, are to the best of their knowledge, true and correct.

**Signature of Beekeeper** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_